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### ***Kernan Announces Grants to Train 1,579 Workers at Four Michiana Area Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that four Michiana area businesses have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce Skills Enhancement Fund.

"In a time when our economy is tough, we're proud to support Hoosier companies like these that are investing in their workforce and their community," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts.

- **Benteler Automotive**, Goshen, has received a \$39,000 grant to retrain 214 existing employees following the company's \$5.3 million investment in building improvements and new equipment. Established in 1990, the plant is a leader in the heavy metal stamping industry, using iron tubing to manufacture a variety of products found in automobiles. Using the Commerce grant, employees will be trained in basic and industrial math, welding, lean manufacturing, robotics, forklift operation and quality control practices.
- **Honeywell Aircraft Landing Systems (ALS)**, South Bend, has been awarded a \$160,000 grant to train 535 existing employees following a \$9.5 million investment to purchase new manufacturing equipment. Owned by Honeywell International Inc., ALS is the sole producer of wheels and brakes for the majority of military aircraft currently produced and supplies virtually all of the world's major aircraft manufacturers with its steel and carbon brakes. Using the Commerce grant, employees will be trained in new computer, electrical, refrigeration and carpentry skills as well as welding, crane inspection, blueprint reading and quality control procedures.
- **Nyloncraft**, Mishawaka, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to train 20 new employees and retrain 369 incumbent workers following the company's \$6.2 million investment in new equipment. Founded in 1953, the company was one of the area's first injection molding operations supplying the automotive, heavy truck and marine industries including General Motors, Ford and Honda. The Mishawaka facility specializes in under-the-hood parts and various types of exterior trim. With the Commerce grant, employees will pick up computer, inventory, math, molding and troubleshooting skills as well as training in computerized number coding and quality control processes.

- **Weil-McLain**, Michigan City, has received a \$75,000 grant to retrain 441 existing employees following the company's \$15.3 million investment in building improvements and new equipment. Founded in 1881, Weil-McLain is a leading producer of cast iron boilers, water heaters and radiant systems. The company will use the Commerce assistance for trainer education and quality control training and certification.

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web Site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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